THE BIBLE SPEAKS
International Uniform Sunday School Lessons
By DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:1-20; 19:21-26; Acts 11:19-26; Romans 12:9-21; Philippians 1:27-30; 1 Thessalonians 5:15-25; James 1:22-27.
DEVOTIONAL READING: Luke 10:25-37.

Christian Living

Lesson for October 1, 1950

READER, do you have your New Testament handy? Get it down and let us go over a few paragraphs of it together. What we are looking for is an answer to this question: Is there anything special, anything different, noticeable, about the Christian way of life?

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Act on the Word

FIRST, look at James 1:22-27. "Be ye doers of the Word," he says, "not hearers only." Moffat's modern-English translation says:

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"Act on the Word instead of merely listening to it." At the end of this section James offers the only definition of religion given in the entire Bible. Note that it is altogether in terms of action, behavior, life both inward and outward.

"Act on the Word"—he means the Word of God, of course. In verse 21 he has already told us the Word is like a seed sown in our lives, a seed expected to grow . . . Now look at Phil. 1:27-30. If you have the King James version, which is over 300 years old, that word "conversation" in verse 27 will mislead you.

What Paul wrote (in Greek, of course) was not conversation, but a word meaning manner of living. Moffatt brings out the meaning more pointedly: "Do lead a life worthy of the Gospel of Christ." What God wants us to do as Christians is to live like the best sermons we hear. Live lives that match the story of Jesus.

* * *

Life of Grace

NOW turn to the story of Barnabas in Acts 11:19-26. Barnabas was commissioned by the mother-church to inspect and report on the new congregation at Antioch. Were they Christians or not? Barnabas saw two things about those people, and he was glad: it was a congregation of believers, and he saw also the grace of God.

Christian living is a life of faith and a life of grace. It is a life tied with God, blessed by the grace of God. Now this is not automatic. It is not something that happens whether we wish it or not.

Observe what Barnabas told those new Christians at Antioch: "Remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose" (v 23, Revised Standard Version). The Christian life is one of devotion, a life of steady purpose, it is no drifting, sinking life, it sails by the Star of God.

* * *

World Not Christian's Orange

NOW turn to a group of passages too full, as all of these are, to be gone over here in detail. You will have to take time yourself to read and think seriously about them: Matt. 5:1-20; 18:21-35; Romans 12:9-21. The theme running through all these is the same: The Christian's life is marked by a special kind of attitude toward other persons.

There are different ways in which people regard others. The criminal looks on all men as his enemies. He is out to beat them down. "Git or git got" is his motto. The "average citizen" who is no Christian, and even some who claim to be Christians but never got the hang of it, are not so brutal as the criminal, but their main idea about other people is much the same, though they are more polite about it.

As one of these has said: "The world is your orange—squeeze it!" What can I make, what is my cut, what will you give me, where do I come in, how can I use you? But the Christian's attitude to other people is totally different. What it is — well, read these passages from Jesus and Paul, and find out.

* * *

Without Ceasing

THERE is one more point about the Christian life. It keeps on. It grows. Look up I Thessalonians 5:15-25. Listen to the note of perseverence singing through it all. There is a preacher who sometimes says: "You cannot be a Christian today. You can begin today, because that takes only an instant. But you cannot be a Christian today. That takes a lifetime."

The phrases of Paul—"ever follow . . . evermore . . . without ceasing . . . hold fast . . ." were not mere phrases. He had lived them.

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Evergreen

Evergreen, Sept. 26.- Jay Stewart left last week to attend college in Blacksburg.

Mr. and Mss. J. C. Staples visited her brother, at Crewe recently.

Mrs. B. M. Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Ferguson and boys, of Forest; Miss Kathy Rice, of Coleman Falls; Mrs. Della St. Clair and son, of Timberlake Rd., were dinner guests Sunday in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Paulette.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Gibson and two sons, Billie and Charlie, of Washington spent the week- end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Warriner.

Miss Delores Gamble was a Sunday dinner guest of Miss Bessie Ann Glover.

Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Farrar, of Roanoke are spending awhile at their home here.

Miss Karry White, of Lynchburg is visiting her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Staples.

Mrs. Jennie Johnson and Mrs. S. J. Evans and Mrs. D. A. Garrett were dinner guests last Thursday of Mrs. W. E. Warriner. Also, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Gamble called in this same home.

Mrs. C. J. Paulette was the dinner guest recently of Mrs. Melvin Hudson and Mrs. Bruce.

Lawrence Stewart, of Covington visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Stewart recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Junior Blackwell and son were Sunday guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Green Garrett.

Mr. and Mrs. Mott Harvey called to see Mr. and Mrs. Z. V. Harvey last Tuesday night.

Mrs. Howard Glover and three girls and Herbert Greene all motored to Lynchburg Saturday.

Those visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. LeGrande Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Dalton and Mr. and Mrs. LeGrande Dalton, of Richmond; Mr. and Mrs. Moses W. Nunnally, of Ashland; Mrs. J. Stanley Hubbard, of Petersburg, and Lt. Com. C. O. Deaner and Mrs. Deaner, of Lynchburg.

Misses Ora and Phyllis Paulette, "Buddy" Campbell, Emmett Paulette and Phyllis LeGrande motored to Buggs Island Sunday.

Little Wanda Kaye LeGrande was sick for several days, but is able to be out again.

V. M. I. defeats William and Mary 25 to 19, for William and Mary's first loss to a state team in decade.

Dense smoke darkens skies across eastern states.

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Richwood

Richwood, Sept. 25.- "If a man has nothing in his life program for which he would die, he has nothing in his program which makes it worth while for him to live." —Quoted.

Divine services at the Central Baptist Sunday at 11 A. M.

Mr. and Mrs. Carter Pankey and his mother, Mrs. Robert Pankey, were in Lynchburg on business Saturday.

Mrs. Henry Fleshman was the week-end guest of Mr. and Mrs. Ward.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Pugh visited with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Marsh at Rocks Sunday.

Mr. John Moore visited with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Williams Sunday.

Mrs. Anna Ward will leave Monday, October 2, for a month's visit with relatives in Galapolis, Ohio, and Durand, Mich.

Mr. and Mrs. Carter Martin and daughter, Mary Lou, visited with his parents Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Pugh were the guests Monday evening of Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Wooldridge, and daughter, Marvis.

Taxes seems prepared to take loss in Korea.

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SEPTEMBER 1950 marks a milestone in the service history of VEPCO, and in the personal lives of one of Virginia's farm families. With the connection of electricity to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Murray, in Halifax County, about half way between South Boston and Danville, the number of VEPCO customers becomes 500,000—and another American farm family begins to enjoy the benefits of low-cost electric service.

The occasion was marked by a celebration at the hospitable Murray farm, at which time it was VEPCO's pleasure to present an electric range, refrigerator and radio to its half-millionth customer. Among the more than 200 guests, including friends and neighbors of the Murrays and officials of the power company, were the former Governor of Virginia, William M. Tuck, and Jack G. Holtzclaw, President of the Virginia Electric and Power Company.

For many years VEPCO has pioneered electric service to the rural areas of VEPCOland . . . and since January 1, 1946, VEPCO has added 140,000 customers to its system . . . 14 *new* customers every working hour, 1 *new* customer nearly every four minutes. This includes *67,000 new rural customers* and has involved the construction of 9,300 miles of new rural lines —enough to extend from Norfolk to San Francisco and back—and back again to San Francisco!

Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Murray receive congratulations from Jack G. Holtzclaw, President of VEPCO. At the microphone is George Passage, news analyst of WRVA, who was emcee at the celebration.

The significance of making our 500,000th service connection is not that of adding just one more customer. The significance is that a *business-managed, tax-paying company, owned by 27,000 stockholders,* is ready, willing and able to provide such a great service for so many people at so little cost to them. That's our American pattern . . . free enterprise . . . and because of it, our plans for the future can soundly anticipate the *next* 500,000 customers who will enjoy low-cost electrical living in VEPCOland!

Mrs. Murray prepares her first meal on her electric range, a gift from VEPCO. The Murray family also received an Electric Refrigerator and a Radio as VEPCO's 500,000th electric customer.

William M. Tuck, former Governor of Virginia, congratulates his Halifax County neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Murray, at their farm home near South Boston, Virginia.

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Rocks

Rocks, Sept. 25.- It has turned rather cool. Makes one think frost is not very far off.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Franklin have moved to Appomattox. We will miss them in our community.

A quiet wedding took place on Wednesday afternoon, September 20 at 4:00, when Miss Annie Christine Martin, daughter of S. H. Martin, of Greenbelt, Maryland, became the bride of William Rodney Roach, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Roach, of Pamplin.

The ceremony was performed in the parsonage at Evergreen, with Rev. Teatle Brown officiating. Immediately after the ceremony, the couple left for a wedding trip. They will make their home in Lynchburg.

Quite a few from around here attended the fair in Farmville last week.

Mrs. Cal Ranson and Cassie Baldwin attended the W. M. U. Association meeting at Liberty Church at Appomattox Saturday.

Claborne Ingo is improving rapidly. Mr. and Mrs. Claborne Ingo will move to Appomattox soon. Mrs. Ingo has accepted a position in the Hardware Co.

Miss Gertrude Ransom, of Appomattox and J. P. Ransome, Jr., of Suffolk spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Ransom.

Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Roach and children and Mr. and Mrs. Toby Ingo and Andrew Dalo, spent Sunday with Mrs. D. E. Ingo.

Mrs. S. R. Paulette, Mrs. J. A. Garrett, of Evergreen, and daughter, Mrs. Ethel St. John and son, of near Red House also called in the same home.

Mr. and Mrs. John Henry Ransom and Johnny; Mrs. Otis Ransom, Miss Allen Franklin and Cassie Baldwin attended the Dedication at the Stony Creek Baptist Church Sunday.

Hixburg

Hixburg, Sept. 25.- Supt. Bernard Ingo will bring his Boys' Choir from the Presbyterian Home, Lynchburg, Va., to sing at the regular morning service of the Hixburg Presbyterian Church. The Sunday school will entertain the choir.Supt. Ingo and Dr. W. Twyman Williams had a picnic lunch held on the lawn of Capt. and Mrs. Covington's, to invite the people of this community to hear this fine boys' choir.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sears were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Sears.

Miss Jessie Carson returned home from visiting her brother, Mr. and family, and entered Longwood College last Monday for her junior week.

E. P. Sears, Eugene Sears, Otis Gilliam, Dr. W. T. Williams and Jack Kenneth Marshall were week-end visitors in the J. R. Marshall home.

With this heavy smoke screen, drifting down from the big forest fires of Canada, and overshadowing "Old Sol," we wonder how all this fine late tobacco will be cut.

After attending services at the Prospect Methodist Church, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Carson and family spent Sunday with her family.

Mrs. Percy Sears was in Richmond Friday to consult her doctor, who gave her very encouraging reports.

Mrs. Henry Covington was in Farmville Monday.

Mrs. Rodney Smith and Mrs. Fred Flood, of Andersonville, called in the home of J. R. Marshall Thursday evening.

The Hixburg Presbyterian Sunday School is well attended and great interest is shown.

Mrs. Jack Marshall was a business visitor in Farmville Monday.

Mr. Enoch Roberts spent a few hours with J. R. Marshall on Friday.

Our postman, Billy Hubbard, of Appomattox has been a patient in Virginia Baptist Hospital. We are always glad to see former postman, Mr. Ferguson, who is substituting for Mr. Hubbard.

Spout Spring

Spout Spring, Sept. 26.- Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Almond and son spent Sunday in Richmond as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Day.

Mrs. George Carson and children spent Sunday in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Walton.

Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Cyrus, Jr., of New York, are visiting his parents.

Mrs. W. H. Robertson had a fall at her home last Monday, from which she received painful injuries.

Mrs. H. S. Jones entertained the W. S. C. S. members at a quilting bee Tuesday. The quilt is for the parsonage.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Moon and son, of Farmville visited his parents Saturday.

Mildred Jean Franklin entertained a number of her friends at a birthday party Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Zastrow have returned home after an extended visit with relatives in Wisconsin.

Frances Carson celebrated her birthday Sunday at the home of her grandparents.

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